



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOPLIN, CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS SENTENCED FOR METH CONSPIRACY

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that six Joplin, Mo., residents and a California resident were sentenced in federal court today for participating in a conspiracy to distribute large quantities of methamphetamine in Jasper County, Mo.

Sentenced in separate appearances before U.S. Chief District Judge Dean Whipple were **Phyllis Hood**, 51, of Fontana, Calif., to 21 years and 10 months in federal prison without parole; and Joplin residents **Samuel T. Spellman**, 31 (**Hood's** son), to 14 years in federal prison without parole, **Michael W. Burrow**, 46, to 10 years in federal prison without parole, **Karen D. Mitchell**, 42, to 10 years and one month in federal prison without parole, **Gaylon T. Ward**, 35, to five years and two months in federal prison without parole, **Christian L. Parry**, 39, to three years and three months in federal prison without parole, and **Eugene E. Lundgren**, 33, to five years and 10 months in federal prison without parole.

All seven co-defendants pleaded guilty to the charge contained in a June 2, 2005, superseding indictment. They admitted that they participated in a conspiracy that involved the distribution and transportation of more than five kilograms of methamphetamine in Jasper County from at least as early as August 2001, continuing until July 2004.

Hood procured large amounts of methamphetamine from her sources of supply in California, Graves explained, then mailed methamphetamine and traveled to southwest Missouri on repeated occasions to distribute the methamphetamine to co-conspirators. Those co-conspirators then redistributed the methamphetamine in southwest Missouri and wired the proceeds to California. At one point during the conspiracy, Graves added, **Hood** wired over \$100,000 in proceeds from the sale of methamphetamine.

This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly R. Weber Dean. It

was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Jasper County Drug Task Force and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow